

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 and 20-24 are pending in this case. Claims 1-18 are amended, Claim 19 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new Claims 20-24 are added by the present amendment. Amended Claims 1-18 and new Claims 20-24 are supported by the original claims and specification.¹ Amended Claims 1-18 and new Claims 20-24 add no new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 15 was objected to for containing an informality. Claims 13, 14, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 for containing an improper definition of a process. Claims 1-4, 8, and 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Mouly et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,749,400, hereinafter “Mouly”) in view of Anderson (U.S. Patent No. 4,162,907). Claims 9, 10, and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Mouly in view of Anderson and further in view of Verlinden et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,092,392, hereinafter “Verlinden”) and Machlan (U.S. Patent No. 3,622,298). However, Claims 5-7 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but otherwise were indicated as including allowable subject matter if re-written in independent form.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that Claims 5-7 include allowable subject matter.

With regard to the objection to Claim 15, Claim 15 is amended to delete the phrase “in particular.” Accordingly, the objection to Claim 15 is believed to be overcome.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite, Claims 13 and 14 are amended to clearly recite the claimed subject

¹See e.g. Specification at page 5, lines 26-39.

matter. Specifically, Claims 13 and 14 are amended to recite a single element, and the term “particularly” has been deleted. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 13 and 14 are in full compliance with all requirements under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

With regard to the rejections of Claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. §101 and the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112, the cancellation of Claim 19 is believed to render these rejections moot.

With regard to the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Mouly in view of Anderson, the rejection is traversed in light of the clarifying amendment submitted herewith.

Amended Claim 1 recites a float process for manufacturing glass sheets comprising:

pouring molten glass onto a liquid support denser than the glass;
forming a continuous glass ribbon from the molten glass;
advancing the continuous glass ribbon toward a downstream end; and
continuously trimming thickened lateral edges of the glass ribbon in a forming zone at a temperature well above the softening point of the glass.

Mouly describes a glass sheet cutting process in which glass sheets G are cut by a pair of rotary blades 122 above the *annealing* point, within a temperature range of *582 °C to 621 °C*.² It is respectfully submitted that there is no teaching or suggestion in Mouly to cut the glass at a temperature *well above* the *softening* point of the glass, as recited in Claim 1. An exemplary temperature is further recited in Claim 20 of at least 900 °C.

Anderson describes a glass sheet manufacturing method in which glass sheets are periodically cut by a glass cutting frame above the *annealing* point (The temperature of the glass just after cutting is approximately *648 °C to 816 °C*.³) Again, it is respectfully submitted that there is no teaching or suggestion in Anderson to cut the glass at a temperature

²See Mouly, column 6, lines 2-5.

³See Anderson, column 17, lines 44-47.

well above the *softening* point of the glass, as recited in Claim 1. Since each and every element of Claim 1 is not taught or suggested by the cited references, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 is patentable over the cited references.

Amended independent Claim 11 recites similar elements to Claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that Claim 11 (and Claim 12 dependent therefrom) is patentable over the cited art for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1.

New independent Claim 22 recites in part, “continuously trimming thickened lateral edges of the glass ribbon in a zone where the glass has a viscosity of between 10^4 and $10^{5.5}$ poise.” It is respectfully submitted that neither Mouly nor Anderson teach or suggest trimming glass having a density in the range recited in Claim 22. Accordingly, new Claim 22 is also believed to be patentable over the cited references.

New independent Claim 23 recites in part, “continuously trimming thickened lateral edges of the glass ribbon just after the ribbon reaches its maximum width.” It is respectfully submitted that neither Mouly nor Anderson teach or suggest this element. Mouly describes trimming the glass after it has been taken out of the bath, where it would have reached its maximum width,⁴ rather than “continuously trimming thickened lateral edges of the glass ribbon just after the ribbon reaches its maximum width.” Anderson describes trimming the edges of an entire sheet that has been immobilized,⁵ rather than “continuously trimming thickened lateral edges of the glass ribbon just after the ribbon reaches its maximum width.” Accordingly, new Claim 23 is also believed to be patentable over the cited references.

Claims 2-8, 13, and 14 and new Claims 20, 21, and 24 are dependent from Claims 1, 22, and 23, which are believed to be patentable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2-8, 13, 14, 20, 21, and 24 are patentable as well.

⁴See Mouly, column 11, line 8 to column 12, line 7, and Figures 10 and 11.

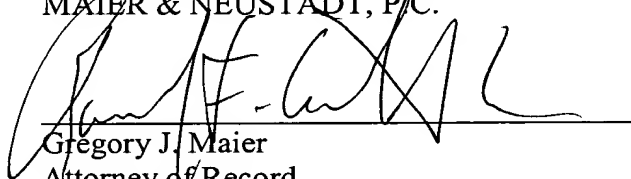
⁵See Anderson, column 10, line 62 to column 11, line 2.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 9, 10, and 15-18 as unpatentable over Mouly in view of Anderson and further in view of Verlinden and Machlan, it is noted that Claims 9, 10, and 15-18 are dependent from Claims 1, 22, and 23 and thus are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Further, it is respectfully submitted that neither Verlinden nor Machlan cures any of the above-noted deficiencies of Mouly and Anderson. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 9, 10, and 15-18 are patentable over Mouly in view of Anderson and further in view of Verlinden and Machlan.

Accordingly, the outstanding rejections are traversed and the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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